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For Immediate Release

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“Don’t Come Knocking” Film Premiere

Butte is rolling out the red carpet. On Friday, March 24th at 7:00 p.m. the film “Don’t Come Knocking” will have its Montana premiere at the historic Mother Lode Theater. The festivities include pre- and post-screening VIP receptions attended by the film’s esteemed director, Wim Wenders.

“We are extremely pleased that Mr. Wenders chose to film a portion of his movie in Butte. We hope that with our new film incentives now in place, directors and producers will realize the financial benefits filming in Montana offers and will follow the lead of those behind “Don’t Come Knocking” and discover Montana as the ideal location for future filming projects” commented Governor Brian Schweitzer.

This Hollywood-esque event marks a homecoming for the film which was partially set in Butte. Uptown Butte served as much of the backdrop during filming in the summer of 2004. The Sony Pictures Classics film stars Sam Shepard and Jessica Lange and was an official selection at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival.

Attending the event on behalf of the Governor’s Office, Department of Commerce Director Anthony J. Preite is pleased by the attention this premiere is receiving. “The significance this project has had on Butte and in turn Montana overall should not be overlooked. Not only is it introducing historic Butte to a worldwide audience but “Don’t Come Knocking” provided an infusion of over \$3 million dollars in the Butte economy over the course of shooting. As we continue to attract the film business to Montana through our new film incentives, productions such as this will provide an economic stimulus to our communities.”

The Department of Commerce - Montana Film Office worked extensively with acclaimed German director Wim Wenders in helping to get the film made in Butte. Wenders had traveled to Butte previously and was captivated by its unique look. In an interview with film critic Emanuel Levy, Wenders comments “(Butte) knocked me out! I had never seen any place like it! Huge brownstone buildings like on Broadway in New York, twelve

stories high, wide avenues... I revisited Butte several times in the eighties and nineties.....Butte grew on me..... entirely unique.”

In the summer of 2002, Wenders and his team got a feel for the production climate while filming a national TV commercial in Montana. He liked what he found and vowed to return to shoot his next film, “Don't Come Knocking”. In June of 2004, Wenders returned to Montana once again and while being escorted by the Montana Film Office began scouting and prepping for the shoot. The Montana Film Office assisted in getting the production set up in Butte with substantial support from Butte's very own Connie Kenney, the former Executive Director of the Butte CVB.

The Montana Film Office is a part of the Department of Commerce and promotes filming in Montana as a means of economic development. From 1998-2003, Montana's film industry generated \$53 million in film production spending within the state. Film production created 903 full-time equivalent jobs in the film industry and 444 full-time equivalent jobs in the general economy. During those five years, the film industry contributed \$4.3 million of tax revenue to the state.

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